

Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency



Looking for an exciting opportunity to explore a variety of career opportunities in pharmacy?

The VALOR program offers participants the chance to gain experience in and explore all areas of VA pharmacy practice. Pharmacists in the VA are actively involved in a wide range of patient care activities, including inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory care services. They have an extensive scope of practice, including prescriptive authority.

Some of the areas of pharmacy practice VALOR students will have the opportunity to explore include:

- Anticoagulation
- Medication therapy management
- Inpatient
- Community living center(*nursing home*)
- Hospice care
- Administration
- Dialysis
- Psychiatry
- Pain management
- Chemotherapy
- Hepatitis C
- and more!

Explore the VA through the VALOR program and find out first-hand what opportunities exist!

What is the VALOR Program?

The pharmacy VALOR program at VA Black Hills is a summer internship program to provide opportunities for outstanding pharmacy students to develop clinical pharmacy practice skills while working at a VA health care facility. There may be an opportunity to extend this internship into the school year as well. Students spend a total of at least 400 hours working with pharmacy residents and clinical pharmacy specialists in a variety of pharmacy practice settings including:

Outpatient Pharmacy: Students will develop skills in prescription review and dispensing, medication counseling, staff education, and medication distribution systems.

Inpatient Pharmacy: Students will participate in IV admixture, kinetics monitoring, medication reconciliation, inpatient anticoagulation, and discharge counseling.

Ambulatory Care: Students will shadow pharmacy residents and interview patients in a variety of disease-state management clinics such as anticoagulation, medication management, hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and heart failure.

Formulary Management/Administration: Students will work on formulary and administrative projects relevant to patient care at the VA.

Other Opportunities: Students are expected to attend and present topic/case discussions and journal clubs.

Why Participate?

VALOR interns gain competency in many areas of pharmacy.

They have the chance to:

- Identify various roles of pharmacists in the VA healthcare system
- Interact with other healthcare providers
- Experience a wide variety of potential roles for pharmacists
- Apply the process for gathering data from patients and medical charts to formulate solutions to therapeutic problems

- Appropriately document patient care activities
- Apply clinical knowledge learned in the classroom to clinical practice situations.

Who is Eligible?

Students who...

- Are currently second year Pharm.D. students at an accredited School of Pharmacy
- Are citizens of the United States and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry into the program
- Are able to complete a minimum of at least 400 hours as a Pharmacy VALOR intern in a VA facility, mostly during the summer, between the 1st and 2nd or 2nd and 3rd year of Pharmacy school
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average in professional curriculum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

How Do I Apply?

- Submit an Application for Federal Employment for the VALOR program (VA Form 10-2850d):
<http://www.va.gov/oaa/archive/VAFORM10-2850d.pdf>
- Submit a School of Pharmacy Transcript
- Submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Submit a letter of intent
- Submit a letter from the Dean/Director of College/School of Pharmacy to Amy Doten. The letter should include:
 - A student nomination to the program
 - Verification of enrollment as full-time student
 - Verification of successful completion of 3 semesters of pharmacy education

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

February 28, 2015

**For additional information or to
submit your paperwork contact:**

VA Black Hills Health Care System
Pharmacy Department
Attn: Amy Doten, Pharm.D.
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Fort Meade, SD 57741
605-347-2511
amy.doten@va.gov

VA Black Hills Health Care System has main facilities in Hot Springs and Fort Meade, South Dakota.
You can find us online at:

www.blackhills.va.gov
www.facebook.com/VABlackHills
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Students can use 3-12 months to work the total of at least 400 hours needed to complete the program. A majority of this experience can be completed during the summer months to gain experience from other VALOR students.

